

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection

Facility Name: GIRLS REHAB. FACILITY

Inspection Date: 11/23/09

Superintendent: Yvette Klepin, Probation Director

Last Inspection Date: 3/4/09

Address: 2861 Meadow Lark Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Telephone Number: (858) 694-4510
Fax (858) 514-8488

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Hon. Susan Huguenor

Staff Interviewed: Yvette Klepin, Superintendent
Leann Kowalski, Supv. Prob. Officer

Commission Inspection Team:
Sally Cox
Eileen Madigan

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:
Jessica St.Clair

2009 Recommendations

1. Identify and provide specialized services for wards who have been exposed to sex work or human trafficking.
2. Replace existing washer and dryers with industrial quality and capacity laundry facilities.
3. Moving GRF may have a serious negative impact on the program due to the reliance on volunteer services. Decision makers should give strong consideration to the impact when weighing moving options.

2007 and 2008 Recommendations

Several recommendations are carried over from 2007 and 2008; these are still in need of attention. These are:

4. Rehabilitate the Annex's (dormitories between Unit 400 and GRF) flooring, electrical outlets, lighting and replacing metal bunk beds and desks.
5. Replace existing washer and dryers with industrial quality and capacity laundry facilities.
6. Expanding services to wards who are survivors of sexual assault.

Since the Last Inspection

Number of Suicides: 0
Number of Attempted Suicides: 3
Number of Deaths from other causes: 0
Number of Escapes: 2
Number of Attempted Escapes: 0

Local Inspections:

Medical/Mental Health: March 5, 2009
Nutritional Health: March 5, 2009
Environmental Health: March 5, 2009
Fire Inspection: December 15, 2009/12/15/2009

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection

Training, Personnel, and Management

Child supervision, training and staffing levels: Staff receives at least eight weeks of training prior to working at GRF, although most staff have worked at other juvenile facilities prior to coming to GRF. There is a diverse group of staff at GRF with several who are bilingual in Spanish and English. Two of the staff are male.

Interviews with staff indicated that there are clear lines of reporting and several layers of oversight in staff supervision.

Policy and Procedure Manual: Staff reported that policies and procedures are reviewed on a monthly basis. When changes are made, staff is trained in new policies and procedures.

Juvenile Facility Capacity and Crowding

There are 50 wards in GRF. They have a 1:12 awake staff-to-child ratio and 1:30 asleep. It is noted that ratios are within guidelines.

Classification and Segregation

Living arrangements in GRF are based on a progressive model of earning more desirable accommodations based on concrete behavior. Interviews with wards indicated a clear understanding of this model. Wards are divided into housing-based teams. These are culturally diverse teams with attention paid to avoiding gang conflicts. There is a weekly competition among teams based on school performance and behavior, after-school behavior, and cleanliness with a prize for the winning team. Wards can apply to be the team leader or to serve as the dorm counsel.

Orientation: At intake, the rules of GRF are reviewed. A copy of the handbook is posted in the facility.

Assessment and Plan: The program at GRF is based on planning for home placement. Psycho-educational classes and casework are all focused on preparing wards for life after GRF. Assessment and planning includes education, health, mental health, family, substance abuse, and issues like gang exposure, sexual abuse, and exposure to violence.

Counseling and Casework Services: Each ward is assigned a case worker. Senior officers and line staff each carry a caseload and have case meetings on a weekly basis. Individual counseling is available to each ward. There is also a treatment team composed of supervisors, psychologist, psychiatrist, the STAT team, and senior officers. Psychotropic medications are reviewed by the treatment team. Family counseling is available when appropriate.

Use of Force: Within GRF, the use of force by staff is sometime necessary to gain control of a ward's behavior and ensure that neither wards nor staff members are hurt.

All GRF staff carry OC spray at all times. OC spray is designed to gain control of a threatening situation. It is used in defense against violent persons in an effort to reduce injuries to both staff and wards. Prior to the use of OC spray; staff will always give wards the opportunity to comply with staff directions by assuming the "cover" position.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection

Use of Physical Restraint: No physical restraint is employed at GRF.

Safety Room Procedures: There is no safety room at GRF.

Searches: The probation officers at GRF perform random searches of rooms. In the past, the entire room was taken apart and the contents were left in disarray for the wards who occupy the room to reorganize. The Supervisor stated that the training issue of leaving a messy room has been addressed with all GRF staff.

Grievance Procedure: All wards spend time in the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF) before they are committed to GRF and, while in KMJDF, they receive a copy of the rule book that they carry throughout their commitment at GRF. Every ward has been educated on the rules and grievance procedure. The grievance procedure at GRF is posted and visible on both "A" and "B" wings. Wards can write a grievance on any issue.

As of December 29, 2009, GRF received 673 grievances for the year, up from the 500+ grievances in 2008. Grievances are categorized in a new log. There are six categories for the grievances: school, clinic, kitchen, staff-disrespect, staff-consequences and miscellaneous. The six categories were determined from an evaluation of the categories that the wards grieve the most. The difference between "staff consequences" and "staff disrespect" is when a ward receives consequences from a staff for negative behavior she may grieve the staff for the consequences she received. When a ward feels that a staff disrespected her, e.g. raised their voice or could not talk to them, she may grieve a staff for being disrespectful. The Detention Information Assistant that keeps track of all the statistics (data entry of the report) reads the grievances and determines the correct category. If a category is questionable, the Supervisor will make the decision on the appropriate category.

Categorization of grievances started on June 23, 2009. From June 23, 2009 through December 29, 2009, categorization shows the following breakdown of grievances:

- School 7.75%
- Clinic 11.81%
- Kitchen 6.64%
- Staff-Disrespect 11.81%
- Staff-Consequences 51.66%
- Miscellaneous 10.33%

In responding to the grievances, staff makes the initial response which is reviewed in turn by the Supervisor and then the Superintendent. Each ward receives a copy of the response to her grievance and the whole process is complete in less than a week.

Reporting of Incidents

There were 354 Incident Reports for GRF in 2009. The Incident Reports range from minor to severe and include:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Administrative information such as child abuse reporting | 66 |
| Assault | 3 |
| Escape in the community | 1 |
| Inappropriate behavior, failure to follow directions and/or administrative removal | 109 |
| Medical/Injury - unobserved to recreational injury | 104 |

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection

| | |
|--|----|
| Security-contraband | 2 |
| Sexual incidents, inappropriate talk, note finding, and touching | 20 |
| Suicidal behavior, mostly talk, a couple of attempts | 43 |
| Violent incidents, fights. | 6 |

Programs and Activities

School Program: School is required and mandatory for all wards at GRF. The school program is operated jointly with KMJDF and is year round. Because of the year-round schedule, substitute teachers are on site most days to cover for full-time staff vacations and sick leave. The school year is 245 days. There are three classrooms with 15-20 students in each room. Supplies and books are provided by the San Diego County Office of Education. Classrooms have computers with Internet access.

There were no minors on independent study, although the school has the capacity to place a minor on independent study if needed.

Coursework is grade appropriate and individualized according to the needs of the students. The education program is standards based and the teachers teach to the required standards. School is from 8 AM. to 2 PM, Monday through Friday, with lunch from 11 AM to noon and one hour of physical education daily. Each 20 days of attendance equals one credit. A work readiness program has been added. Wards can take college courses online after regular school hours. These programs are offered outside of regular class time, so that there can be sufficient monitoring of the wards' time online. Tutoring is available for the California High School Exit Exam.

Wards at GRF receive homework nightly. The usual amount of time spent on homework each night is about an hour. Homework is completed in their rooms and open areas. The Supervisor stated that GRF is in need of additional math tutors.

Recreation and Exercise: Recreation time is provided in compliance with Title XV requirements. A broad spectrum of activities is scheduled; wards have access based on their phase in the program and the privileges they have earned. These activities include movie night, beauty night, staff excursions, four- and eight-hour passes with families, special outings etc.

Wards are expected to participate in some physical activity daily. Wards participate in calisthenics and sports facilitated by Probation and school staff members.

Religious Program: There are Catholic and Protestant services available to all wards. Services are held on rotating Tuesday evenings. The facility is looking into providing a Buddhist service as well. Other services can be provided if there is a need. All religious services are provided by volunteers. This is another example of the reliance on volunteers at GRF.

Work Program: The wards may be allowed to participate in the work crew to help out with landscaping, trash, and maintaining appearance of GRF vehicles. Staff may invite wards to participate based on positive behavior.

Visiting: Visitation is allowed on Thursdays and Sundays. This takes place in the Day Room. Accommodations are made if family cannot make the assigned times, but wishes to visit. In most circumstances, family members can purchase limited snacks for the visit from the vending machine for consumption during the visit. Wards are searched after visitation.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection

Some family members also participate in family counseling with the wards.

Correspondence: Wards can send and receive correspondence. It is scanned for contraband or inappropriate content, but not read by staff.

Access to Legal Services: Wards can have confidential contact with their attorneys at any time.

Discipline

The GRF Rule Book and Passport to Life packets clearly describe the rules and consequences for behavior at GRF. As behavior improves, privileges and independence are provided. Most consequences are essays called "thinking reports." Interviews with wards positively evaluated the discipline.

Health Services: General Discussion

Wards at GRF have access to all medical and mental health services provided at KMJDF. Medical services are contracted with and provided by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) who continues to contract with Children's Specialist of San Diego out of Children's Hospital for pediatric services provided to wards age 15 or less. Wards older than 15 receive medical services through Sharp Hospital. Daytime staffing at GRF includes one Physician, one Physician's Assistant, three Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN), and one Registered Nurse (RN). Night staffing includes one RN and 2.5 LVNs. Mental health care is provided through County Mental Health; there is a strong working relationship between medical and mental health services characterized by consistent joint meetings at which complex cases are discussed. An assessment team meets with new wards and sets up individual plans for each ward. Treatment teams include a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and senior GRF staff. The treatment team determines the need for family counseling and drug counseling when indicated. New this fiscal year, is the Stabilization Treatment and Transition (STAT) team. Participation in STAT is voluntary and it is anticipated to serve about 50 wards per year. There is no cap on the time that wards may utilize STAT services.

Food Service

The meals are obtained from KMJDF and are prepared by the County Sheriff's Department. As delivered from KMJDF, meals are individually wrapped in prepared trays. A new cart system keeps the hot food at the desired temperature for a longer period of time. The GRF kitchen is very clean and well kept. The knives are kept locked and are used by the kitchen staff only. Because the meals come from KMJDF, the wards at GRF do not prepare meals. The wards may work in the smaller GRF kitchen to assist with the preparation of snacks and special meals for earned special activities.

All meals are served in the dining area in the Day Room. At least 30 minutes is allowed for meals. Seats are assigned, keeping wards' temperaments in mind to prevent bullying. Wards are not permitted to share food. After they are seated in their assigned places, wards are permitted to converse with each other during meals at their own table. Wards may not converse between tables. Staff is present and supervises all meals, including the preparation of the room and the distribution of the meals.

Weekly menus are prepared and posted at GRF. Menus have been revised recently to please the wards while still maintaining nutrition standards. Wards with health conditions that may necessitate a special diet see a nutritionist. The nutritionist may set guidelines for a ward's meals. All meals are prepared to be appetizing and nutritious.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS' REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2009 Inspection**

Clothing and Personal Hygiene

The wards were well groomed. They are issued plain pants and T-shirts as well as night gowns, underwear, robes, and shoes. Wards who are in the Short-Term Offender program (STOP) wear bright pink T-shirts. Wards with special needs wear vests to indicate certain restrictions. Clothing is loose-fitting and appropriate to weather. Wards are not permitted to wear personal clothing, including during excursions/field trips. Wards may be allowed to wear personal clothing in extraordinary circumstances, such as a funeral. Wards adhere to precise rules such as tucking in shirts except at recreation; wearing shoes and socks at breakfast, lunch, school, ROP, working in and around the facility, and on excursions; and, wearing robes over nightgowns whenever they are out of their rooms.

All wards are required to shower a minimum of five minutes every day. Talking is prohibited in the showers. Basic toiletries are provided by GRF. After wards reach the "Journey Phase," they are eligible to have additional personal hygiene items brought in on visiting day. No glass or breakable containers, lotion pumps, spray pumps, or aerosol sprays are permitted. Showers are constantly supervised by staff; some privacy is maintained with doors that still allow staff to see the wards.

Bedding and Linens

Wards are issued two blankets upon admission – three during winter. They also receive two sheets and one pillow case. Wards are provided with a clean towel every day, clean sheets weekly, and clean blankets monthly.

Transition Plan

Not applicable to GRF.

/end